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417 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 206C • ALI'ĪOLANI HALE • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2902

TELEPHONE (808) 539-4909 • FAX (808) 539-4801 • www.courts.state.hi.us

Michael F. Broderick
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Walter M. Ozawa
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Susan Pang Gochros
DIVISION CHIEF, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION

Marsha E. Kitagawa
PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Marsha Kitagawa (808) 539-4909

For Release to Maui Media:
January 16, 2003

Maui Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program

The Maui Family Court is currently recruiting volunteers for the next Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) training program. The next program will be held in March. The dates for the five-day training program will be determined when a sufficient number of persons are screened and available for training.

VGALs are trained volunteers appointed by the court to represent the best interests of a child in a child abuse or neglect case. A VGAL is responsible for keeping the court informed about the child. VGALs serve as fact-finders, advocates, and monitors for children in need.

A VGAL must be at least 20 years of age and able to spend between four and 30 hours a month working on a child's case. The children are matched to volunteers according to the seriousness of the case, similarities between child and volunteer, and the amount of time a volunteer has available.

Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact Marsha Yamada at (808) 244-2729.

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